UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1999/7
S/1999/170
18 February 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Resumed organizational session
for 1999
New York, 6 and 7 May 1999
Agenda item 1
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 16 February 1999 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the President of the Security Council

I refer to recent meetings I had with you and with the former President of the Security Council, Ambassador Celso Amorim, on implementation of Article 65 of the Charter of the United Nations, according to which "the Economic and Social Council may furnish information to the Security Council and shall assist the Security Council upon its request".

The reference to Article 65 in the presidential statement of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) at the end of the open meeting on "Maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building" was acknowledged by the Economic and Social Council at the beginning of its deliberations in 1999. I referred to it in my opening statement on 20 January 1999 and several delegations mentioned it during the organizational session. The Secretary-General also referred to this issue in addressing the Economic and Social Council on 3 February 1999.

In the discussions held so far on possible areas for concrete implementation of Article 65, two subjects have been raised.

The first one refers to Security Council resolution 1170 (1998) of 28 May 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, as well as to the presidential statement of 24 September 1998 (S/PRST/1998/29) issued at the end of a ministerial meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa. In both deliberations the need was stressed for the United Nations system, including the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to consider appropriate action in response to the comprehensive recommendations set out by the Secretary-General in his report. I wish to underline that the Economic and Social Council will devote

the coordination segment of its substantive session next July in Geneva to the theme "Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development". Furthermore, both the high-level segment ("The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women") and the humanitarian segment ("International cooperation and coordinated responses to the humanitarian emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development") will provide useful elements for the "comprehensive, concerted and determined approach" to the problems of Africa, which is at the core of the approach suggested by the Security Council.

The second theme raised refers to Haiti. In resolution 1212 (1998) of 25 November 1998, paragraph 8, the Security Council invites "United Nations bodies and agencies, especially the Economic and Social Council, to contribute to the designing" of "a long-term programme of support for Haiti". I am seeking your advice whether such invitation should be interpreted as a formal request in accordance with the second part of Article 65 of the Charter and, if this is the case, what concrete contribution the Security Council expects from the Economic and Social Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI